

Message Text

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15 43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OPIC-12 XMB-07 AID-20 DRC-01 /205 W
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R 071440Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5454

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 9564

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 3 L I N E 7

E.O. 11652: GDE

TAGE: PFOR, CG, BE

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN-BELGIAN BILATERAL TALKS

REF: (A) KINSHASA 9171 (B) KINSHASA 9264

1. SUMMARY: BELGIAN EMBASSY CONTINUES SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF OCTOBER 18-22 MINISTERIAL TALKS ON BILATERAL COOPERATION DESPITE TOUGH PUBLIC LINE MOBUTU HAS BEEN TAKING ON SOME ISSUES SINCE. END SUMMARY.

2. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR VAN DEN BLOOCK DISCUSSED WITH ME ON NOVEMBER 6 CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN BELGIUM AND ZAIRE. IN ADDITION TO POINTS MADE IN PARAS 2 AND 3 REF A RE VISIT OF BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE, HE SAID FOREIGN MINISTER HAD GOTTEN NOWHERE WHEN HE RAISED QUESTION OF COMPENSATION FOR BELGIAN COTTON
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INDUSTRIALISTS WHOSE MACHINERY REQUISITIONED BY GOZ. VAN

ELSLANDE ALSO VOICED TO MOBUTU CONCERN THAT RAPIDLY EXPANDING PASSENGER CARRYING CAPACITY OF AIR ZAIRE AND SABENA LIKELY TO CAUSE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. MOBUTU ADMITTED THAT PRESTIGE WAS ONE FACTOR IN AIR ZAIRE'S DECISION TO BUY NEW AIRCRAFT, BUT ADDED THAT HE WAS WATCHING GOZ INDEBTEDNESS CAREFULLY.

3. VAN ELSLANDE AGREED TO MOBUTU'S REQUEST TO SEEK WAYS TO MAKE BELGIAN TECHNICAL AID COST ZAIRE LESS. VAN DEN BLOOCK THOUGHT GOB WOULD DECIDE TO PAY FULL AIR FARE (INSTEAD OF HALF). MOBUTU ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT GOZ OBLIGATION TO HOUSE AND DOCTOR TA'S. VAN DEN BLOOCK CONJECTURED MOBUTU MIGHT UNILATERALLY REDUCE PORTION OF EXPATRIATE

SALARY THAT CAN BE REPATRIATED (NOW 50 PERCENT) OR POSSIBLY TAKE OTHER MEASURES TO LIMIT FOREIGN EXCHANGE OUTFLOW.

4. MOBUTU URGED BELGIUM UNDERTAKE "NEW" INVESTMENT IN ZAIRE, AND VAN ELSLANDE REPLIED HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ON THIS SCORE IF PROPER SYSTEM OF INVESTMENT GUARANTEES COULD BE WORKED OUT. IN THIS CONNECTION VAN DEN BLOOCK MENTIONED THAT SGM DECISION TO BUILD NEW COPPER REFINERY IN SYABA HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED GOZ APPROVAL.

5. VAN DEN BLOOCK COMMENTED THAT DESPITE SOME OF TOUGH TALK MOBUTU HAS USED IN PUBLIC IN REGARD TO BELGIAN INTERESTS SINCE VAN ELSLANDE VISIT (REF B), GOB/GOZ RELATIONS REMAIN BASICALLY GOOD. HE JUDGED THAT FIERY OCTOBER 4 SPEECH AT UN DID NOT SIGNAL ANY BASIC CHANGE IN MOBUTU'S LUCID, GENERALLY PRAGMATIC OUTLOOK. I AGREED.
VANCE

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